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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, 16, 18, 19, 33, 35, and 36 have been amended and claims 38-60 have been added.

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1. (Amended) A method for alerting a viewer of a program, said method comprising:
receiving a signal indicating viewer interest in a program;
retrieving program information in response to the received signal;
storing the program information in a processor system local to the viewer; and
at approximately time of broadcast of the program, issuing a notification to notify
the viewer of the broadcast of the program.

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2. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising switching a
broadcast receiver to tune to the program when the viewer selects to view the program in
response to the notification.
3. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein issuing a notification
comprises displaying on a viewing device the notification.
4. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein issuing a notification
comprises issuing a notification that includes a program selector to enable the viewer to select to
view the program.
5. (Unchanged) The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the program selector
comprises a button.

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6. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the notification includes a button enabling the viewer to select to view the program, said method further comprising switching a broadcast receiver to tune to the program when the viewer selects the button.

7. (Unchanged) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the time at which the notification is issued is derived from program information retrieved.

8. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising: generating a second notification during a broadcast of a program advertisement, said second notification asking the viewer whether the viewer has interest in the program; wherein said signal indicating viewer interest is generated by the viewer responding to the second notification.

9. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a viewer indicates interest by selecting a program from an electronic program guide.

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10. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising generating a calendar of at least one program of interest.

11. (Amended) A method for alerting a viewer of a program, said method comprising: issuing a first notification during a broadcast of an advertisement of an upcoming program, said first notification asking a viewer whether the viewer has interest in the program; receiving a signal indicating viewer interest in a program; retrieving program information in response to the received signal; storing the program information in a processor system local to the viewer; and

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at approximately time of broadcast of the program, issuing a second notification to notify the viewer of the broadcast of the program.

12. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising switching a broadcast receiver to tune to the program when the viewer selects to view the program in response to the second notification.

13. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein issuing a notification comprises displaying on a viewing device the second notification.

14. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein issuing a second notification comprises issuing the second notification that includes a program selector to enable the viewer to select to view the program.

15. (Unchanged) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the program selector comprises a button.

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16. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the second notification includes a button enabling the viewer to select to view the program, said method further comprising switching a broadcast receiver to tune to the program when the viewer selects the button.

17. (Unchanged) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the time at which the second notification is issued is derived from program information retrieved.

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18. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the first notification includes a button enabling the viewer to indicate interest.

19. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

 a first receiver configured to receive broadcast signals;

 a second receiver configured to receive at least one control signal, said control signal issued to indicate viewer interest in a program to be broadcast;

 a controller coupled to the first receiver and second receiver, said controller configured to retrieve program information in response to receipt of the control signal, store the program information local to the viewer, and issue, at approximately a time of broadcast, a notification to the viewer of the broadcast of the program.

20. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein the controller is further configured to generate a second notification asking the viewer whether the viewer has interest in the program.

21. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 20, wherein the second notification is generated during broadcast of an advertisement of the program.

22. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the second notification comprises a notification window superposed over the advertisement broadcast.

23. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 20, wherein the viewer indicates interest in the program by selection of a button located in the notification window, wherein the control signal is generated in response to the viewer indicating interest.

24. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein the notification includes a button enabling the viewer to select to view the program, said controller further configured to control to switch a broadcast receiver to tune to the program when the viewer selects the button.

25. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein the second receiver is further configured to tune to the program when the viewer selects to view the program in response to the notification.

26. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, further comprising a viewing device, said notification displayed on the viewing device.

27. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein the notification comprises further comprises a program selector to enable the viewer to select to view the program.

28. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 27, wherein the program selector comprises a button.

29. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 26, wherein the notification includes a button enabling the viewer to select to view the program, second receiver tuning to the program when the viewer selects the button.

30. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 27, wherein the time at which the notification is issued is derived from program information retrieved.

31. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, further comprising an electronic program guide, said user interest indicated by reference to the electronic program guide.

32. (Unchanged) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, further comprising a calendar identifying at least one program of interest to the viewer.

33. (Amended) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, causes the processing system to perform operations for alerting a viewer of a program comprising:

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receiving a signal indicating viewer interest in a program;
retrieving program information in response to the received signal;
storing the program information local to the viewer; and
at approximately time of broadcast of the program, issuing a notification to notify the viewer of the broadcast of the program.

34. (Unchanged) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 33, further comprising instructions which, when executed, switch a broadcast receiver to tune to the program when the viewer selects to view the program in response to the notification.

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35. (Amended) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 33 further comprising instructions, which, when executed, cause the processing system to perform operations comprising:

generating a second notification during a broadcast of a program advertisement, said second notification asking the viewer whether the viewer has interest in the program; wherein said signal indicating viewer interest is generated by the viewer responding to the second notification.

36. (Amended) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, causes the processing system to perform operations for alerting a viewer of a program comprising:

issuing a first notification during a broadcast of an advertisement of an upcoming program, said first notification asking a viewer whether the viewer has interest in the program; receiving a signal indicating viewer interest in a program; retrieving program information in response to the received signal; storing the program information local to the viewer; and at approximately time of broadcast of the program, issuing a second notification to notify the viewer of the broadcast of the program.

37. (Unchanged) The computer readable medium set forth in claim 36, further comprising instructions, which when executed, switch a broadcast receiver to tune to the program when the viewer selects to view the program in response to the second notification.

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38. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the notification includes a program selector enabling the viewer to select to record the program.

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39. (New) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the second notification includes a program selector enabling the viewer to select to record the program.

40. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the processor system is a computing system that controls a display.

41. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the processor system is a handheld device.

42. (New) The method as set forth in claim 41, wherein the handheld device is selected from a group consisting of a phone, and personal data assistant (PDA), and a remote control.

43. (New) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the first notification includes a program selector enabling the viewer to select to record the program.

44. (New) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the second notification includes a program selector enabling the viewer to select to record the program.

45. (New) The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising recording the program when the viewer selects to record the program in response to the second notification.

46. (New) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the processor system is a computing system that controls a display.

47. (New) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the processor system is a handheld device.

48. (New) The method as set forth in claim 47, wherein the handheld device is selected from a group consisting of a phone, a personal data assistant (PDA), and a remote control.

49. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein the notification includes a button enabling the viewer to select to record the program, the controller further configured to record the program when the viewer selects the button.

50. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein the controller is a computing system that controls a display.

51. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein the controller is a handheld device.

52. (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim 51, wherein the handheld device is selected from a group consisting of a phone, a personal data assistant (PDA), and a remote control.

53. (New) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 33 further comprising instructions which, when executed, record a program when the viewer selects to record the program in response to the notification.

54. (New) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 33, wherein the processing system is a computing system that controls a display.

55. (New) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 33, wherein the processing system is a handheld device.

56. (New) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 55, wherein the handheld device is selected from a group consisting of a phone, a personal data assistant (PDA), and a remote control.

57. (New) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 36 further comprising instructions which, when executed, record a program when the viewer selects to record the program in response to the second notification.

58. (New) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 36, wherein the processing system is a computing system that controls a display.

59. (New) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 36, wherein the processing system is a handheld device.

60. (New) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 59, wherein the handheld device is selected from a group consisting of a phone, a personal data assistant (PDA), and a remote control.